

The Ontario Argus
County Official Paper

An Independent Newspaper

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FAITH IN ONTARIO

There are many ways of showing faith in a city. It is particularly the function of those who are endeavoring to build up a community to manifest their belief that the city is to grow, and to do so in a substantial manner.

Generally speaking there is no better indication of faith in a town than investments in residence or business property. If possible every business should be located in property belonging to the owner of the business. There are many reasons which justify this contention. The only real argument that can be raised against it is that the business lacks the capital necessary to the purchase, or that greater returns may be had by employing capital in merchandise than in property.

It is true that only a small proportion of Ontario's business men own their own business property. In many cases the goods in the stores are of greater intrinsic value than the buildings in which they are located. Since a home is necessary for the business it is but reasonably fair to suppose, that as a general proposition the business ought to be able to finance a home of its own.

In Ontario there are only 17 men in business who own entirely or in part the structures in which their business is located. This is entirely too small a number. It militates against progress in the community. It is a source of dissatisfaction all around. When improvements are contemplated too few are affected and if they interpose objection people are prone to believe that they are doing so hold back progress because it will affect them financially.

The men who have manifested sufficient faith in a community to invest heavily in its property are entitled to consideration; not on the basis of their holdings; but on the basis of their faith. On the other hand if they have gambled in property and are holding it merely for the purpose of taking profits due to the increases in value which they expect the general public to create, then the question is one of a different category entirely.

Ontario has some very definite problems to solve, and they involve financial obligations. The question of taxation is a serious one in this as in every other community. The question is serious here because the heavily taxed property is in the hands of but a few. They are affected more than men should be in proportion to the size of the city.

The practical solution of the problem is a wider division of ownership. Business men should secure greater representation in real estate ownership. We believe this would do several things. It would lessen the desire on the part of those who feel the burden of taxes to retard progress. It would release their capital for other needed improvements. It would aid materially in the growth of Ontario. Best of all we believe that it would create a better feeling in the community generally, though it may be truthfully said that community solidarity is as high today as it ever was.

AS OTHERS SEE US

A recent visitor to the city said to the wife of one of our business men:

"Why is it that with such a good looking business district, with paved streets and good looking stores the people here permit, the alleys, and the back lots to be littered with fifth?"

When one stops to think about it, that is a hard question to answer.

ANNOUNCEMENT

DOCTOR J. C. WOODWARD, OCU LIST, WOODWARD BUILDING, PAYETTE, IDAHO desires to announce that he will be at his office every afternoon for the purpose of FITTING GLASSES. Arrangements may be made for evening appointments. Eyes will be examined FREE OF CHARGE. Office equipment includes every modern instrument. FIT and SATISFACTION guaranteed.

ALL ALIKE

An investigation on the part of the Argus into the condition of the property of T. H. Moore, who was mentioned last week as the only one whom the council had, as yet, notified to clean-up property, revealed that Mr. Moore has connected every one of his pieces of property with sewerage; that the lots of all his business property are in good condition, especially about the hotel, but that the property concerning which the order was issued, was not cleaned when the first order was given by the city health officer. This property is located on First street at First avenue N. W. two blocks north of the City Hall.

While Mr. Moore admits that he is derelict in cleaning up this section of property, he makes a proposition which will set a pace for many others to follow, and one which the council may well take note of. Mr. Moore declares his willingness not only to follow but to lead any movement for the clean-up of the city, and though he does not say so, it is natural that he expect the city Council to compel of other property owners to comply with the laws in the same manner.

We believe this is a fair proposition. Health laws are of the most importance in this city particularly. With the coming of the warm weather when flies breed so thickly not a pest spot for their propagation should be permitted within the city limits, especially if there are people living close by.

In connection with the clean-up notices given last week The Argus would make this statement: no matter who it is, if the city health committee gives a written notice to any person to clean-up, that person will be named. Everyone will be treated alike. There was no desire on the part of the Argus to make an exception of Mr. Moore, who as a matter of fact has shown a greater willingness to observe the regulations than many other property owners, save in the case mentioned, and concerning which he acknowledges his dereliction.

The publicity which was given last week to the council's determination to enforce the health regulations has already had a salutary effect. Many property owners have taken action, without waiting for formal notice and are cleaning up their property; others have ordered

sewer connections, and as a matter of fact some are waiting to see whether or not this campaign will die out as has many in the past.

THE LEGISLATURE'S RECORD

There appears to be a general agreement that the session of the legislature which closed at Salem last Wednesday made an enviable record.

In spite of the fact that half of the time of the lawmakers was taken with measures affecting Multnomah county alone, it is to the credit of the session that it did not neglect the interests of the state at large.

First and foremost the legislature gave the state a new motor vehicle code and endorsed the work of the Highway Commission, strengthened its hands and made possible the completion of the highway program.

The only departure from routine affairs was marked by the bill strengthening the activities of co-operative producers which will permit the growers to so handle their affairs that they will not be at the mercy of the commission men. This is a step which followed naturally the agitation that has occupied the attention of Oregon ranchers for the past year or more.

This step shows the power of organized effort to educate the public. It is proof positive that in Oregon the problems of the producers can be solved by Oregonians without the interposition of a bunch of carpetbaggers for North Dakota or any other state parading under any disguise.

SHALL COUNCIL BE SUSTAINED

Ontario is face to face with the "clean-up" problem. The City Council and the City Health officer have determined that the health regulations, enacted for the protection of all the people, be enforced. The question in the last analysis is: will public opinion sustain them in their fight for a cleaner and healthier city?

The Argus has made it a point to discuss this question with a number of the heavy property owners, business men, and just folks who live in the residence districts.

Without a single exception the judgment of those interviewed is: "Yes, the laws should be enforced." Given, then, the support of the people generally and it follows that

the Council should see to it that the law is enforced uniformly, that everyone be treated alike.

The Council has taken action. It has announced that it is to require sewer connections. This should have been done years ago. Now let it be seen that when the Council issues such a statement that through the enforcement officers it make good its determination.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

The men who own property in the city should be the leaders in any effort for the betterment of the city. No one will gainsay the fact that a clean city is much to be preferred to an unsanitary one. Property values actually will be enhanced, by cleanliness and therefore those who own property, for purely selfish reasons should be anxious to clean up.

TRAIN SCHEDULE

West Bound	
No. 17 Passenger	3:47 A. M. Daily
No. 5 Mail	6:26 P. M. Daily
No. 19 Passenger	4:30 P. M. Daily
No. 23 Passenger	2:01 P. M. Daily
No. 85 Passenger	(Pony) 9:33 A. M. Daily
East Bound	
No. 18 Passenger	1:10 A. M. Daily
No. 86 Passenger	(Pony) 7:50 A. M. Daily
No. 4 Passenger	9:23 A. M. Daily
No. 6 Mail	2:20 P. M. Daily
No. 24 Passenger	4:30 P. M. Daily
Oregon Eastern Branch	
West Bound	
No. 371 Mixed Vale-Crane	Departs 10:00 A. M. Daily Ex. Sunday
No. 373 Mixed Vale-Brogan	Departs 12:30 P. M. Daily Ex. Sunday
No. 193 Passenger Vale	Departs 10:30 A. M. Sunday Only
East Bound	
No. 372 Mixed from Crane	Arrive 2:50 P. M. Daily Ex. Sunday
No. 374 Mixed from Brogan	Arrive 4:50 P. M. Daily Ex. Sunday
No. 194 Passenger from Vale	3:05 P. M. Sunday Only

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WONDERFUL INTEREST IN FARM BUREAU

The representatives of fifteen Oregon counties met at Portland on January 11th and remained in session three days. There was a great spirit of cooperation shown and a disposition to go about the great work ahead of the Oregon State Farm Bureau Federation in an organized and thoroughly business like way. In keeping with the spirit of the organization there were present by invitation from the president C. E. Spence of the Grange and A. R. Shumway of the Farmers' Union and several representative men from the State Federation of Labor. The spirit of co-operation was everywhere manifest. There was less talk and more work than at any similar meeting in my experience. Although the new State Federation is less than a week old, it is rapidly organizing its state office, has an organization staff rounding into splendid shape to put on drives in the regular American Farm Bureau Federation way, and has since the Portland meeting already visited Jackson, Columbia, Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties which have each arranged a guarantee fund to put on a paid membership drive with similar arrangements pending in other counties. We have helped organize a movement to pool under a six year binding marketing contract the Oregon wheat acting in cooperation with the Farmers' Union, the Grange, and the wheat growers, and a meeting has been arranged at The Dalles, January 2nd, to complete the plans. Acting in the same way a Western Oregon Wool and Mohair pool is being organized and has arranged to meet at Albany January 21, to perfect the organization. A committee has been appointed to consult with the Bureau of Markets and representatives of the Farmer Union and Grange and others interested in adopting a plan to organize county co-operative exchanges and head them up with a Central or State Farmers' County Co-operative Exchange.

All of these pools and organizations are to be formed on a strictly non-profit, co-operative plan. We are planning to organize for farm statistics and crop reports, the marketing of hay and livestock along similar lines and bringing into unified action all the various farmer activities of the state. The legislative committee has examined a number of proposed bills

STATE'S WEALTH HAS MADE LARGE INCREASE

Census Bureau's Figures of Values in Oregon Indicate Marked Increase in Values of All Classes of Property

While there is a growing demand for lower taxes in Oregon many of those who are making complaint will find food for thought in the comparative values of Oregon property revealed in the census report just issued. This is especially true when it is remembered that while the values given below have increased by 55 per cent the assessed values have increased approximately 20 per cent, which by itself explains to a large degree the cause of increased tax levies.

The number of farms in Oregon, according to the recent census, is 50,209. These farms contain 13,542,318 acres, of which 4,913,851 acres are improved land. Since 1910 the number of farms has increased 19.3 per cent; the total acreage, 15.9 per cent; and the improved acreage, 14.9 per cent. Twenty-two and one-tenth per cent of the land area of the state is in farms, and 26.3 per cent of the farm land is improved.

The number of white farmers is 49,633, of which 40,454 are native and 9,149 foreign-born. Of the native white farmers, 31,569 are owners, 802 managers, and 8,113 tenants. Of the foreign-born white farmers, 7,936 are owners, 196 managers, and 1,107 tenants. The 573 colored farmers comprise 358 owners, 8 managers, and 207 tenants. These colored farmers include 15 Negroes, 399 Indians, 224 Japanese, and 34 Chinese. The number of female farmers is 1,649, including 1,518 owners, 12 managers

and 119 tenants.

The value of all farm property is \$818,559,751, as compared with \$528,243,782 in 1910, an increase of 55.0 per cent. The value of land and buildings is \$675,213,284; of implements and machinery, \$41,547,125; and of live stock, \$101,779,342. As compared with 1910, the value of land and buildings for 1920 shows an increase of 45.2 per cent; of implements and machinery, 214.8 per cent; and of live stock, 71.2 per cent. The average value of land and buildings per farm is \$13,449, as compared with \$10,612 in 1910; and that of land alone per acre is \$43.29, as against \$35.23 in 1910.

The value of the 14,355 farms for which complete mortgage reports were secured is \$166,643,423, and the amount of the mortgage debt is \$51,999,178, or 31.3 per cent of the value. The average rate of interest paid is 6.5 per cent. Forty-nine and seven-tenths per cent of all farms operated by the owners are mortgaged, as compared with 33.7 per cent in 1910.

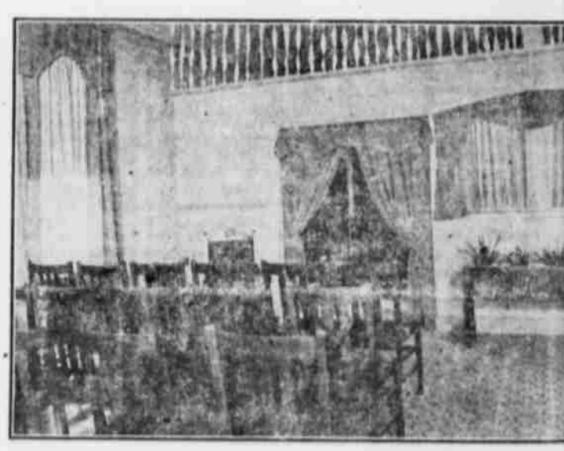
FARMS AND	Jan. 1, 1920	Apr. 15, 1910
FARM ACREAGE	1920	1910
Number of farms	50,209	45,592
Operated by:		
Owners	39,883	37,796
Free from mortgage	18,077	24,855
Mortgaged	17,842	12,632
No mortg. report	3,943	309
Managers	916	847
Tenants	9,427	6,859
Operated by:		
White farmers	49,633	44,575
Native	40,454	35,819
Foreign-born	9,149	9,050
Colored frs.	573	627
Land in farms:		
Total, acres	13,542,318	11,685,110
Improved, a.	4,913,851	4,274,530
Average acreage per farm:		
Total	269.7	256.8
Improved	97.9	93.8

FARM VALUES	Jan. 1, 1920	Apr. 15, 1910
All farm property	\$818,559,751	\$528,243,782
Land and buildings	675,213,284	455,576,309
Implements and machinery	41,547,125	13,205,845
Live stock	101,779,342	59,461,828
Average value per farm:		
All farm property	16,304	11,609
Land and buildings	13,449	10,612
Land alone	43.29	35.23
Average value per acre:		
Land and buildings	49.56	38.99
Land alone	43.29	35.23
MORTGAGE DEBT	1920	1910
Farms reporting amount of debt:		
Number	14,355	10,274
Value	\$166,643,423	\$93,525,449
Amount of debt	51,999,178	21,165,627
Per cent of value	31.2	22.6
Average rate of interest paid, per cent.	6.5	6.5
Average debt per farm	3,622	2,080

and approved or rejected them and instructed the writer, as President of the State Bureau, to represent it at Salem on all these matters, which will be done not by log rolling, but by a dignified and clear presentation of the farmer view of these matters to members and committees. We are now in Linn County on an active drive, this being the week for public speaking. The greatest interest is being shown by the farmers, both men and women. Linn county and I expect to close to see a very large per cent in the Greater Linn County Bureau. GEO. A. MANSFIELD, President Oregon State Farm Bureau.

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